

Copyrighting Your Songs

1. Copyrighting your songs is a concern for many aspiring songwriters, but it may not be the primary worry for those starting out. The process of becoming a successful commercial songwriter requires time and substantial effort. The reality is that crafting songs that meet the standards for commercial success involves more than just preventing potential theft.

2. It's important to recognize that the likelihood of someone stealing your song is fairly low, especially in the early stages of your songwriting journey. The focus should be on honing your skills and creating music that resonates with industry standards. While your friends and family may appreciate your creations, the road to crafting commercially successful songs is a demanding one.

3. Legally, the moment you complete a song, you own the copyright to it. Formal registration with the [Library of Congress](#) is an option, but there are alternative ways to establish authorship without incurring the expense. Publishers, for instance, often delay copyright registration until a song is picked up or as we say cut.

4. If concerns persist, online registration of a collection of songs can be done at the same cost as registering a single song. However, the "**poor man's copyright**" method, involving mailing songs to yourself via registered mail, **does not hold up in court** and is not a reliable means of protection.

5. In summary, while copyrighting is essential for protecting intellectual property, the initial focus for emerging songwriters should be on developing their craft, collaborating with industry professionals, and creating music that stands out within industry standards.

“Write, Write & Rewrite until its Right”

Tony Ray Jones

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